



The Old Ironsides Report

18 July 2003

‘Charlie’ 1-94 FA Battery clears Baghdad of old munitions

By Capt. Josh N. Stephenson and 2nd Lt. Louis Rodriguez, C Battery, 1st Bn., 94th Field Artillery Regt.

The soldiers of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, know their way around the city of Baghdad.

Since the starting its part of Operation Iron Bullet in July, the battery has transported thousands of rockets, warheads, mortars, and artillery shells.

Daily C Battery soldiers roll to sites with in the city to police up dangerous ordinance from urban areas.

Once loaded, the ammunition is taken to a secure holding area outside of the city where it is sorted, packaged, and sometimes, destroyed.

Soldiers have to be ready to adapt to changing situations. Sometimes initial assessments of an area often underestimate the total quantity of munitions in the neighborhood. Sometimes soldiers find new stockpiles of previously undiscovered ordnance.

Neighborhood residents, once they discover Americans are removing “bombs” from their children’s backyards, often point out additional sites of unexploded ordnance.

Occasionally they can be too helpful. Interpreters



Above: Soldiers for C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, load a missile onto a truck for shipment. The battery has been gathering unexploded munitions throughout Baghdad during Operation Iron Bullet.



Charlie Battery soldiers gather unexploded munitions from a site in Baghdad. The weapons will be taken to a safe location where they will either be stockpiled or destroyed.

working with the battery ask the residents to refrain from bringing the UXO’s directly to the soldiers.

Gathering the unexploded munitions is not just a matter of going to a site and throwing the ordnance onto a truck. In some cases, the enemy has taken the opportunity to “booby-trap” sites in the hopes of killing U.S. soldiers as they clear the city of these dangerous tools of warfare.

Before removing any shell, rocket, or mortar, the ammunition is inspected and cleared. If anything looks different, funny, or out of place, Explosive Ordnance Disposal soldiers further clear the site to ensure that Charlie Battery soldiers work in a relatively safe environment.

On one occasion, while removing 280mm rockets from a site, a grenade was found lodged between containers, pin pulled, waiting for disaster.

The plot was foiled, however, by Spc. Mark Fisher’s attention to detail. He discovered the booby-trap, raised the red flag to his leaders, and the saved lives of fellow soldiers and members of the community.

Everyday is a test for the Charlie Battery soldiers, but such is life throughout the 1st Armored Division. Rock Steady!

NEWS

Bush Plans to Meet With Abbas, Sharon

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush will seek to move the Mideast peace process forward with back-to-back White House meetings later this month with Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan confirmed Thursday that Bush will host Abbas on July 25 and Sharon four days later.

Blair Arrives in D.C. for Talks With Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) - Prime Minister Tony Blair, America's unwavering ally in the war in Iraq, arrived in Washington Thursday for talks with President George W. Bush and to address a joint session of Congress.

Blair arrived as his close alliance with Bush showed strains over intelligence and U.S. determination to try two British citizens before a military tribunal.

Dems blame White House for Iraq claim

WASHINGTON (AP) -- CIA Director George Tenet - described as "very contrite" - told a Senate panel he was responsible for bad intelligence finding its way into President Bush's State of the Union, but Democrats aren't convinced.

The question isn't why Tenet did not remove the information from the speech, but who at the White House insisted on leaving it in, they said after Tenet's 4 1/2-hour appearance Wednesday before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

A proposal by Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., for an independent investigation of the prewar intelligence was defeated Wednesday in the Senate on a 51-45 vote. Corzine sought to include the amendment as part of a \$386.6 billion defense spending bill.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

When you have to make a choice and don't make it, that is in itself a choice.

--William James

There are times when it's hard to make a decision. Waiting to decide until we have all the facts is one choice. Not deciding because we're afraid of what may happen is also a choice. We may find ourselves thinking so much about what could happen that we miss the prime opportunity presented to us.

It's necessary to keep in mind that any course of action is a decision. What's important is how we make our decisions. When we let God into our decision making we are given a whole new perspective on which to make our choices.

"Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts."

(Psalms 119:173).

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

Academics Declare Recession Ended in 2001

WASHINGTON (AP) - The 2001 recession, the country's first downturn in a decade, officially ended in November of that year, only eight months after it had begun, an academic group declared Thursday.

The decision was made by the National Bureau of Economic Research, a group of academic economists which is the recognized arbiter of when recessions begin and end in the United States.

SPORTS

Otto Is Surprise British Open Leader

SANDWICH, England (AP) - Hennie Otto is the surprising early leader at the British Open after sinking several long putts on the way to a 68 at blustery Royal St. George's.

Then came Greg Norman, who played as if it was 1993 all over again. The 48-year-old Shark, bothered most of the year by a back injury, turned in a 69 on the same course where he won the British Open a decade ago.

World Cup draw pits U.S. vs. N. Korea

CARSON, Calif. (AP) -- The United States will play Sweden on Sept. 21 to open the Women's World Cup soccer tournament.

The 16-nation tournament was moved from China to the United States because of the SARS scare. The opening game will be played at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C.

The defending champion U.S. women are the top seed in Group A, which includes second seed Sweden, third seed Nigeria and fourth seed North Korea.

The Americans' second game will be against Nigeria on Sept. 25 in Philadelphia. The third game will be against North Korea on Sept. 28 in Columbus, Ohio.

In other news...

'Six Feet Under' Leads Emmy Nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The funeral home drama "Six Feet Under" received a leading 16 Emmy nominations Thursday, followed by three-time best drama winner "The West Wing" with 15.

"The Sopranos," back in contention after missing out on last year's awards because it didn't air during the eligibility period, received 13 nominations, along with the comedies "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "Sex and the City."

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 109F

Low: 82F

